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Committees  
Economic Development, Small  
Business and Regulatory Reform VC  
Families and Human Services VC  
Government Operations  
Health Policy

# The Jacobs Report

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**Friday, September 26, 2003**

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## **'FIRM' CHARTER SCHOOL AGREEMENT GOES SOFT**

A day after halting, at least temporarily, an agreement to expand charter schools in Detroit, Governor Jennifer Granholm told a Thursday Detroit radio audience that she should have dealt directly with the community on the issue. Meanwhile, an aide for Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick denied that the mayor was part of the agreement.

Later in the day, Governor Granholm met with House Speaker Rick Johnson (R-LeRoy) to further discuss the issue. The meeting stood in contrast to Ms. Granholm's Wednesday statement that there was "no point" in continuing counterproductive discussions.

Both sides emerged from the meeting stating that the issue was still alive, though the governor said the ball is now "in other people's courts" to write a bill true to the bipartisan agreement reached nearly two weeks ago.

Ms. Granholm, appearing on WCHB-AM's morning talk program, said she had negotiated with Republican leaders based on a deal she had with Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick, but repeated what she had said Wednesday regarding Mr. Kilpatrick's change of heart.

A transcript of the appearance was not available, but Granholm press secretary Liz Boyd said the governor told listeners she learned an important lesson, which is to make sure the residents and legislators of any affected community are part of the process.

"She negotiated with the mayor on the assumption that he represented and was communicating with the citizens of Detroit," Ms. Boyd said. "She had a deal with the legislative leadership and that deal was predicated on the deal she had with the mayor."

When asked to comment on the role Mr. Kilpatrick had in complicating the deal, Speaker Johnson said he was disappointed with the mayor. "Actually I was disappointed," Johnson said. "... I'm disappointed because I thought he was concerned about doing what's best for the kids. I hope he's still concerned about doing what's best for them."

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### **DETROIT SCHOOLS CLOSE AS TEACHERS PROTEST AT CAPITOL**

Thursday, hundreds of Detroit teachers protested at the Capitol to "send a message" to Governor Granholm and lawmakers that they don't want more charter schools in Detroit.

The protest was organized by the Detroit Federation of Teachers (DFT), a union that encouraged the teachers to take the day off from school to attend the rally. Detroit Public Schools did not open because of the expected absence of so many teachers.

Reaction to the rally elicited both praise and scorn. "It is always a sad day when teachers and students are not in school," said Governor Granholm.

### **GODCHAUX NAMED TO OAKLAND BOARD**

Former state Representative Pan Godchaux of Birmingham, now the owner of an advocacy training company, was named Tuesday as one of two new members to the Oakland Schools Board of Education. The other new member of the intermediate school district board, replacing members who resigned over allegations of misspending on travel and gifts, is George Ehlert of South Lyon, also a member of the South Lyon Community Schools Board of Education.

The new appointments run until June, when they face reelection by the districts within the ISD.

The board lost two of its members and fired its former superintendent over the travel spending scandal. Though all have denied any wrong-doing, Attorney General Mike Cox is still conducting a criminal investigation into the allegations.

### **GOVERNOR GRANHOLM PROCLAIMS SEPTEMBER FOOD SAFETY MONTH**

Governor Granholm has proclaimed September Food Safety Month here in Michigan. Under the stewardship of Dan Wyant, the Michigan Department of Agriculture's current director, food safety has become the department's primary goal. If you'd like to learn more, please visit <http://www.michigan.gov/mda/0,1607,7-125--74274--,00.html>.

**State Senator Gilda Jacobs** represents the 14<sup>th</sup> Senate District, which includes Beverly Hills, Bingham Farms, Farmington, Farmington Hills, Ferndale, Franklin, Hazel Park, Huntington Woods, Lathrup Village, Oak Park, Pleasant Ridge, Royal Oak Township, Southfield, and Southfield Township. She is the Minority Vice Chair of the Families & Human Services Committee and the Economic Development, Small Business & Regulatory Reform Committee. She also serves on the Government Operations and Health Policy Committees.

Constituents of the 14<sup>th</sup> District may contact Senator Jacobs at [sengjacobs@senate.michigan.gov](mailto:sengjacobs@senate.michigan.gov) or toll-free at 1-888-937-4453.

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